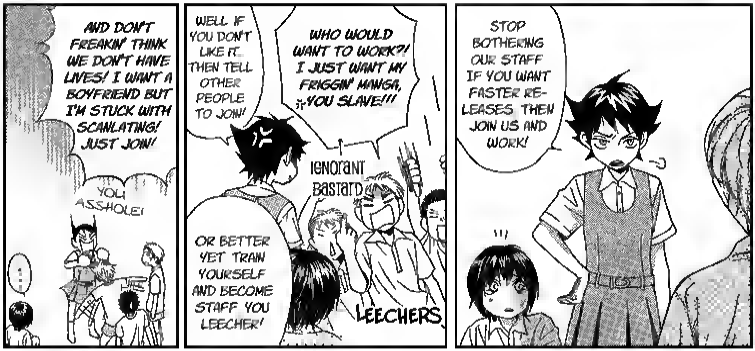
SHORT STORY


AND DON'T FREAKIN' THINK WE DON'T HAVE LIVES! I WANT A BOYFRIEND BUT I'M STUCK WITH SCANLATING! JUST JOIN!
YOU ASSHOLE!
WELL IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TELL OTHER PEOPLE TO JOIN!
WHO WOULD WANT TO WORK?! I JUST WANT MY FRIGGIN' MANGA, YOU SLAVE!!!
IGNORANT BASTARD
OR BETTER YET TRAIN YOURSELF AND BECOME STAFF YOU LEECHER!
LEECHERS
STOP BOTHERING OUR STAFF IF YOU WANT FASTER RELEASES THEN JOIN US AND WORK!
!!!

Truth of Rin
(Oneshot)

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Just a friendly reminder,
This reads from
LEFT to RIGHT
Hope you enjoy! =D
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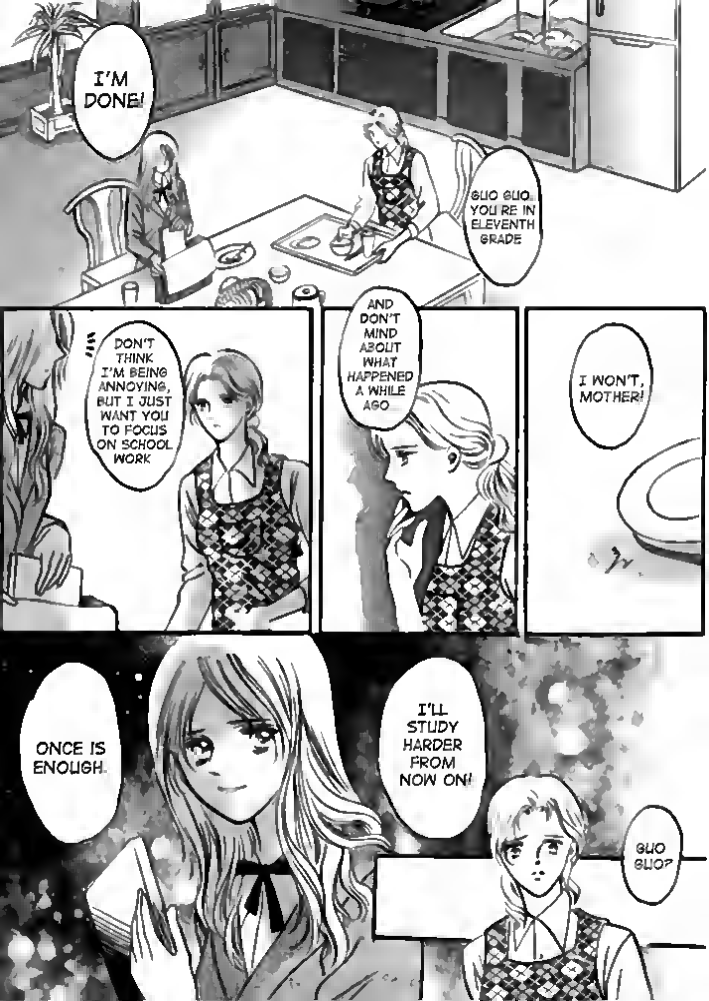
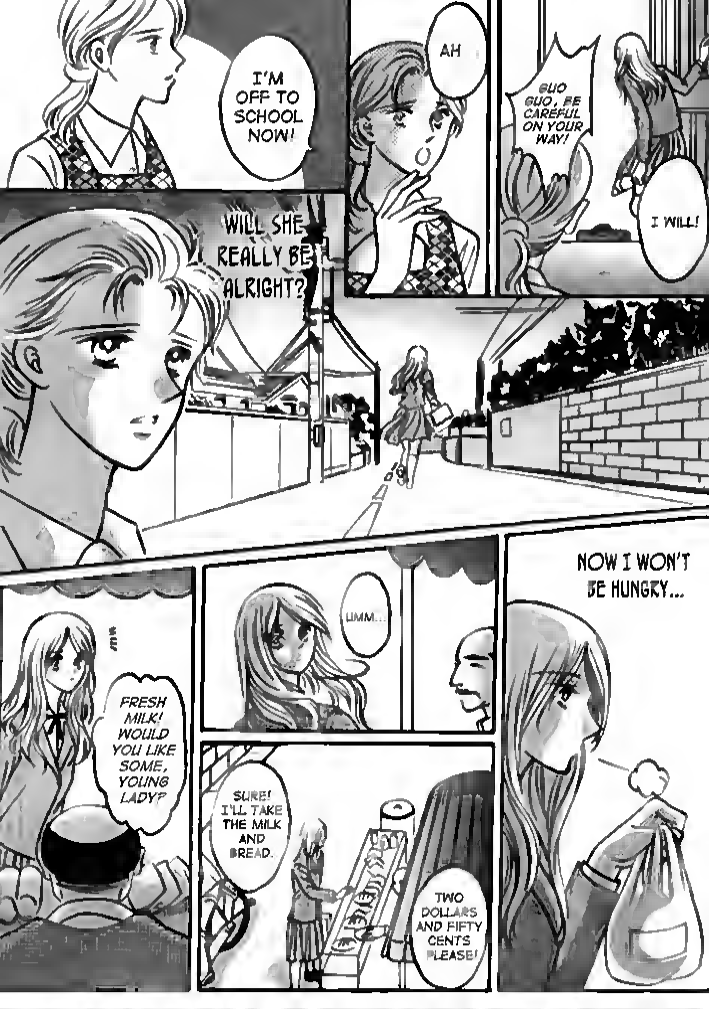
The Truth of Kin


I'M DONE!
GUO GUO, YOU'RE IN ELEVENTH GRADE
DON'T THINK I'M BEING ANNOYING, BUT I JUST WANT YOU TO FOCUS ON SCHOOL WORK
AND DON'T MIND ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED A WHILE AGO...
I WON'T, MOTHER!
ONCE IS ENOUGH.
I'LL STUDY HARDER FROM NOW ON!
GUO GUO?


I'M OFF TO SCHOOL NOW!
AH
GUO GUO, BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY!
I WILL!
WILL SHE REALLY BE ALRIGHT?
NOW I WON'T BE HUNGRY...
UMM...
SURE! I'LL TAKE THE MILK AND BREAD.
TWO DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS PLEASE!
FRESH MILK! WOULD YOU LIKE SOME, YOUNG LADY?
SURE!

?
whispers
whispers
JEFF G
EH!

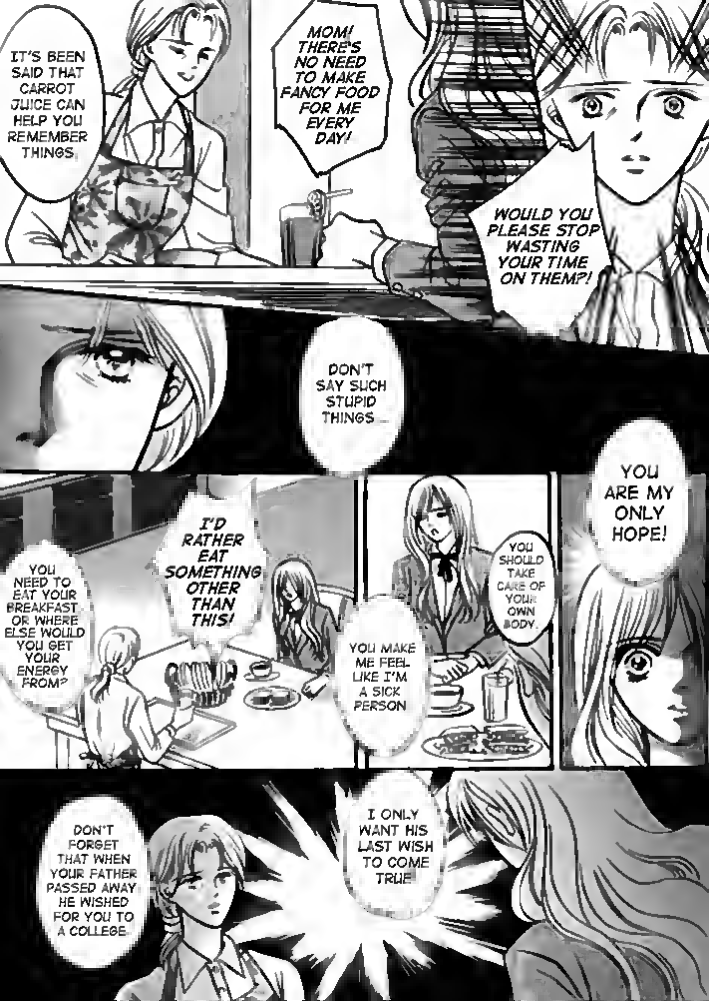
LIAN!
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
IT'S BE-CAUSE YOU WANTED TO SEE ME RIGHT?
LIAN, WERE YOU SLEEPING? WERE YOU TOO BORED OR WHAT?
NOPE. I WAS JUST STARING AT A BUTTERFLY ON MY SHIRT SEEING HOW BEAUTIFUL IT WAS
LET'S GO, I'LL WALK YOU TO SCHOOL

WAS IT RARE? DO WE HAVE THEM IN THIS AREA?
EH? THAT'S SO COMMON. WHY WERE YOU SO INTERESTED IN IT?
IT'S A VIOLET ONE, WITH SOME WHITE ON IT
NO...
IF YOU THINK SOMETHING'S COMMON, YOU'LL ALWAYS THINK IT'S COMMON
Coo Coo
Coo Coo
BEAUTY IS JUST HUMAN PERCEPTION. IF YOU THINK SOMETHING IS UGLY OR COMMON, IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WATCH IT CAREFULLY. EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD
THE SKY, TREES, INSECTS, PEOPLE ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL. ALL THAT MATTERS IS HOW YOU SEE IT

LIAN...
DID YOU FORGET THAT YOU ARE AN ELEVENTH GRADER?
OF COURSE NOT!
I'VE DECIDED THAT I WON'T BE GOING TO SCHOOL!
Come on Sir, let's go
HEY!
EH?
YOU SAID IT, RIGHT?
THAT I HAVE TO TREASURE MY TIME WITH YOU
BUT ONCE I GO TO SCHOOL, ALL I'LL DO IS TAKE TESTS. LL MY CLASSMATES CARE ABOUT RE TESTS.
JEFF.C
I'D RATHER HANG OUT WITH YOU!
GLIO GLIO...
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT WE SHOULD TREASURE OUR TIME?
It'll be awesome!

DO YOU STILL HAVE THE HABIT OF SKIPPING SCHOOL?
!
YOU KNOW I CAN TELL IF YOU'RE LYING OR NOT.
YOU'RE EXAGGERATING I'M SKIPPING SCHOOL JUST THIS ONCE BECAUSE OF YOU
!
HMM... I FORGOT THAT LIAN AND I ARE DIFFERENT ...
BUT, RELAX.
I MADE A DECISION...
THIS WILL BE MY LAST TIME SKIPPING SCHOOL
F.C

YOU FINALLY DECIDED THAT YOU'LL STUDY HARDER?
?!
LET'S TALK WHILE EATING! I CAN'T TALK WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH
?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T EATEN BREAK-FAST?
WHY ELSE WOULD I BE HUNGRY NOW?
BUT DIDN'T YOUR MOTHER COOK YOU BREAK-FAST?
ABOUT THAT... I JUST PRETEND TO EAT IT.
?
I DON'T WANT TO EAT THEM
EVERY TIME MY MOM TURNED AROUND,
I'D THROW IT AWAY.
WHY? DOES IT NOT TASTE GOOD?
THEY'RE GOOD.
EVERYDAY, BREAKFAST IS ALWAYS DIFFERENT...
"GUO GUO, I MADE YOU SANDWICH AND SOUP. DRINK THIS CARROT JUICE AFTER YOU'RE DONE."


IT'S BEEN SAID THAT CARROT JUICE CAN HELP YOU REMEMBER THINGS.
MOM! THERE'S NO NEED TO MAKE FANCY FOOD FOR ME EVERY DAY!
WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP WASTING YOUR TIME ON THEM?!
DON'T SAY SUCH STUPID THINGS...
YOU ARE MY ONLY HOPE!
YOU SHOULD TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN BODY.
YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE I'M A SICK PERSON
I'D RATHER EAT SOMETHING OTHER THAN THIS!
YOU NEED TO EAT YOUR BREAKFAST OR WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU GET YOUR ENERGY FROM?
I ONLY WANT HIS LAST WISH TO COME TRUE
DON'T FORGET THAT WHEN YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY HE WISHED FOR YOU TO A COLLEGE.

BUT EVEN IF IT'S NOT YOUR FATHER'S WISH, IT'S MY WISH TOO.
YOUR FATHER AND I NEVER WENT TO COLLEGE
WE NEVER ATTENDED SCHOOL. FOR US, YOU GOING TO COLLEGE IS VERY IMPORTANT.
SO, GUO GUO, I WANT YOU TO MAKE OUR WISH COME TRUE
THE ONLY THING I CAN DO IS MAKE YOU FOOD.
AND THE ONLY THING YOU HAVE TO DO IS STUDY HARD AND GO TO A COLLEGE.
MOTHER
EAT. THE FOOD WON'T TASTE GOOD IF IT'S COLD.
IT'S WORTH IT IF YOU CAN REALLY MAKE MY WISH COME TRUE. I'LL DO ANYTHING.
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER TO EAT EVERYTHING TOO.

GUO GUO, YOU HAVE TO GO COLLEGE, TO HELP ME ACHIEVE MY GOAL.
THIS IS WHAT I HAD HOPED
SO, EAT EVERY-THING!
MOM, I FINISHED EATING.
I HAVE TO EAT EVERYTHING!
THE GARBAGE IS FULL.
I'LL THROW IT AWAY FOR YOU.

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO EAT, IT'S THE PRES-SURE...
EVERY TIME I THINK OF MY MOTHER'S WISH I CAN'T EAT
IT SEEMS THAT,
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS WHY YOU WANT TO SKIP SCHOOL
NO! IT'S BECAUSE WE HAVE TO MEMORIZE EVERYTHING! I DON'T THINK IT'LL WORK OUT LIKE THAT!
.....
GUO GUO, HAVE YOU SEEN ANTS CARRYING HEAVY OBJECTS?
EH?

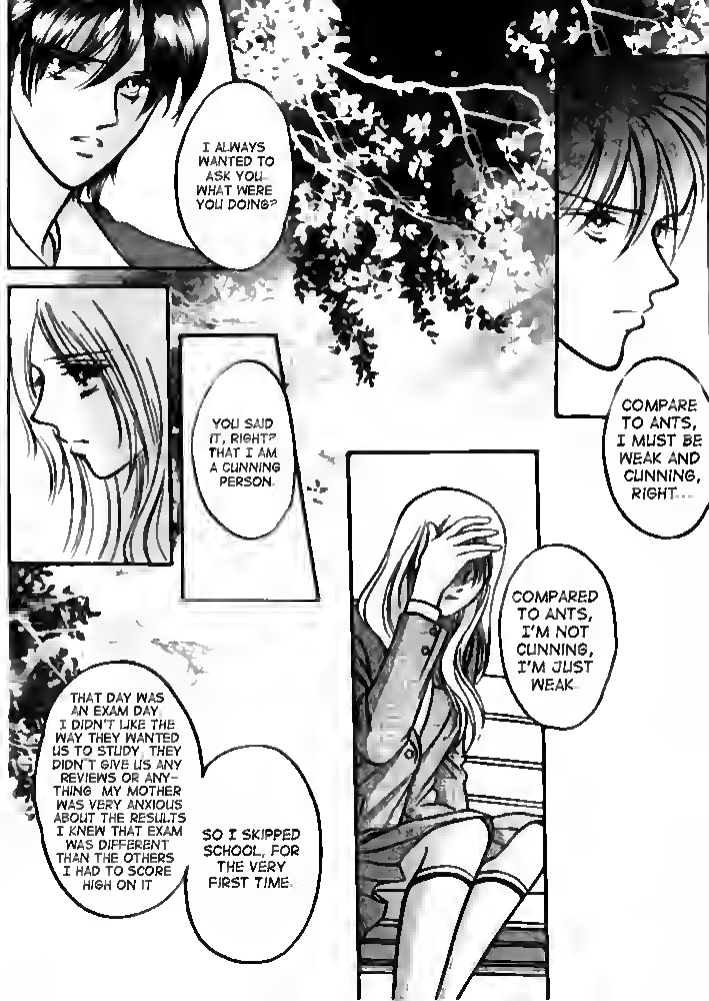
I'VE SEEN ANTS CARRYING INSECTS HEAVIER THAN THEM-SELVES.
SEEING THEM LIKE THAT, I RIPPED THE INSECT APART TO MAKE IT EASIER TO CARRY.
WHEN THE ANTS SAW ME DOING THAT, THEY LEFT.
WHEN COMPARING THEM TO HUMANS, WE'RE NOT VERY SMART,
THE ANTS LEFT BECAUSE THEY WANTED TO DO IT THEM-SELVES

LIAN...
I DON'T MEAN TO BLAME YOU SINCE IT'S NORMAL WANTING TO SEEK THE EASIEST WAY TO ACHIEVE THINGS
BUT GUO GUO THERE IS NO LIMIT TO LEARNING
IF YOU CAN'T FIGHT, THEN TRY TO ADAPT TO IT
BUT WE ARE CUNNING.

LIAN, CAN YOU HOLD MY HAND?
!
I WANT SOME COURAGE
LIAN, REMEMBER HOW WE MET?
OF COURSE, IT WAS HERE
YOU WERE WALKING ACROSS THE ROAD WHEN IT WAS FLASHING RED

?!
VROOOOM
!!
HEY!

DROP
EVEN NOW,
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE FACE YOU HAD WHEN YOU SAVED ME.


I ALWAYS WANTED TO ASK YOU... WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
COMPARE TO ANTS, I MUST BE WEAK AND CUNNING, RIGHT...
YOU SAID IT, RIGHT? THAT I AM A CUNNING PERSON.
COMPARED TO ANTS, I'M NOT CUNNING, I'M JUST WEAK.
THAT DAY WAS AN EXAM DAY. I DIDN'T LIKE THE WAY THEY WANTED US TO STUDY. THEY DIDN'T GIVE US ANY REVIEWS OR ANYTHING. MY MOTHER WAS VERY ANXIOUS ABOUT THE RESULTS. I KNEW THAT EXAM WAS DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHERS. I HAD TO SCORE HIGH ON IT.
SO I SKIPPED SCHOOL, FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

DON'T ANNOY ME
LIFT YOUR HEAD UP!
LOOK AT THAT PERSON,
FIFTY-ONE YEARS OLD. THE FIRST TIME HE INVESTED ON A SHOES COMPANY AND GOT CHEATED
THE SECOND TIME, HE LOST HIS MONEY BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMY. HIS WIFE LEFT HIM. HE NOW INVESTS IN COMPUTERS. HE JUST FINISHED SIGNING A CONTRACT
?

WHEN I WASN'T HANGING OUT WITH YOU, I SOMETIMES LOOKED AT OTHER PEOPLE PASSING BY
AND YOU KNOW WHAT? PEOPLE STAY ON THEIR POINT OF VIEW MOST OF THEIR LIVES
AND THAT PERSON, TWENTY-SIX YEARS OLD,
AFTER FAILING HIS EXAMS TWICE, HE IS NOW STILL GOING FOR A THIRD TRY
LOOK AT THAT LADY. SHE'S THIRTY-SIX...
BECAUSE OF ANOTHER MAN, SHE AND HER EX GOT DIVORCED IN THE END. THE MAN WAS JUST USING HER. SHE IS NOW RETURNING TO HER EX AND HER SON FOR FORGIVENESS. SHE'S TRIED FOUR TIMES AND THIS IS HER FIFTH
K14
K2
K7

IF THERE IS HOPE, THEY WILL KEEP TRYING.
IT'S LIKE A HUMAN LOSING ITS HEART IT WON'T LIVE ON.
BUT IF THEY THINK THAT THEY CAN'T DO SOMETHING, THEY WON'T HAVE THE WILL TO DO IT.
BUT...
GUO GUO. THE PAST I CAN'T SEE IS YOURS
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR RELATION-SHI...
...THE YOU NOW, IS GIVING UP.
ONCE YOU LOSE YOUR WILL, YOU CAN' T SEE YOUR FUTURE
FUTURE?
ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU CAN SEE MY FUTURE?

GOING TO COLLEGE WILL BE BETTER THAN THE YEARS BEFORE, THEY DON'T TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
DOESN'T GOING TO SCHOOL AND WORK HAVE STRESS?
CAN GOING TO A COLLEGE REALLY CREATE MY FUTURE?
IS IT REALLY LIKE THAT?
YOU SHOULD APPLY FOR COL-LEGE.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT IS FOR SOMEONE ELSE OR FOR YOURSELF
IT'S BECAUSE YOU ONLY SEE THE RESULTS, AND NOT THE PATH
NO!
SO YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN FUTURE
NO ONE KNOWS WHAT WILL HAPPEN
OF COURSE NOT.

PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD USE TO SPEND MOST OF THEIR TIME THINK-ING ABOUT OTHERS' BUSINESS
BACK THEN PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT AND ACTUALLY WORKED INSTEAD
MY TEACHER ONCE SAID COLLEGE IS A HEAVEN THAT DOESN'T HAVE A JAIL
ALL YOU GUYS HAVE TO DO IS TAKE YOUR DREAMS AND FLY HIGH!" DO YOU WANT TO SEE IF THAT'S TRUE?

YOU HAVE A DREAM TOO, RIGHT?
YEP!
I WANT TO BECOME A DOCTOR.
I CAN FIGHT DISEASES SAVE PEOPLES' LIVES... I THINK IT WILL FEEL GREAT BEING A DOCTOR!

IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU ARE A REALLY GOOD DOCTOR.
?
JEFFC
BECAUSE YOU JUST SAVED ME AGAIN! I FEEL LIKE I HAVE LOTS OF ENERGY.
LIAN- YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT DECISION I MADE THIS MORNING?
YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

YEAH! I DECIDED THAT...
I'LL GO TO THE PLACE WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE
GOOD!

YOU FINALLY HAVE CONFIDENCE!
LIAN...
YOUR BODY...
IT SEEMS...
MY TIME IS UP. I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S SO SOON.
FF
NO!!
PASSES THROUGH
!

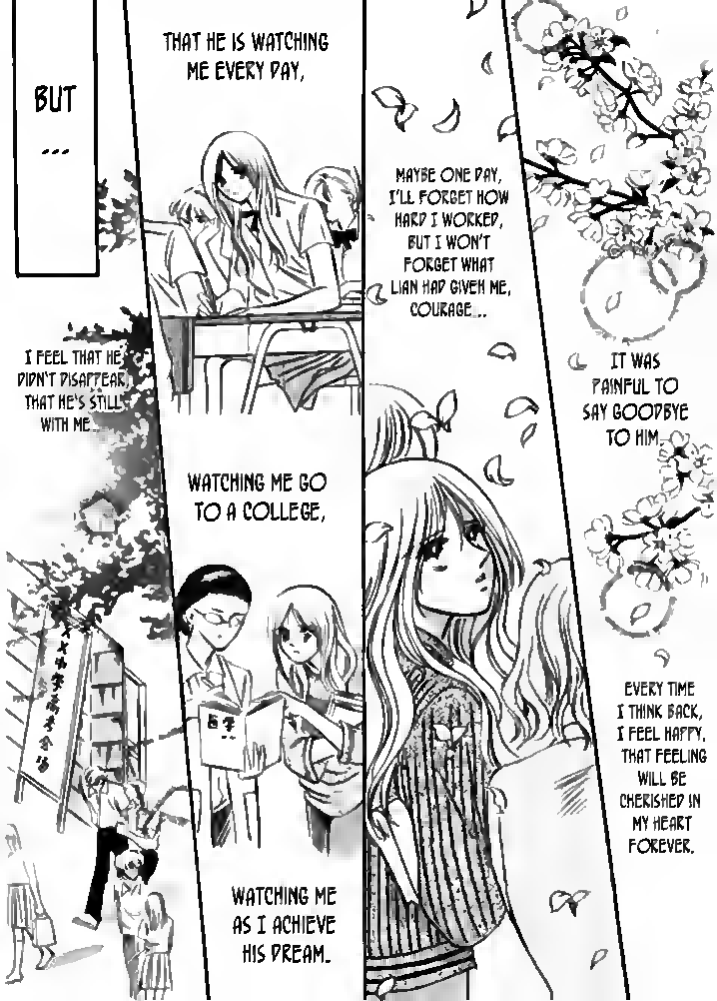
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT!
GUO GUO... DON'T RELY ON ILLUSIONS TOO MUCH!
SINCE YOU HAVE A GOAL, I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE.
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.
DON'T GO—
NO— DON'T— LIAN—
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW? THIS BODY...
IT'S JUST AN ILLUSION CAUSED BY YOUR DEPRESSION AND GUILT
JEFF
I CAN'T— CAN'T SEE YOU ANYMORE?

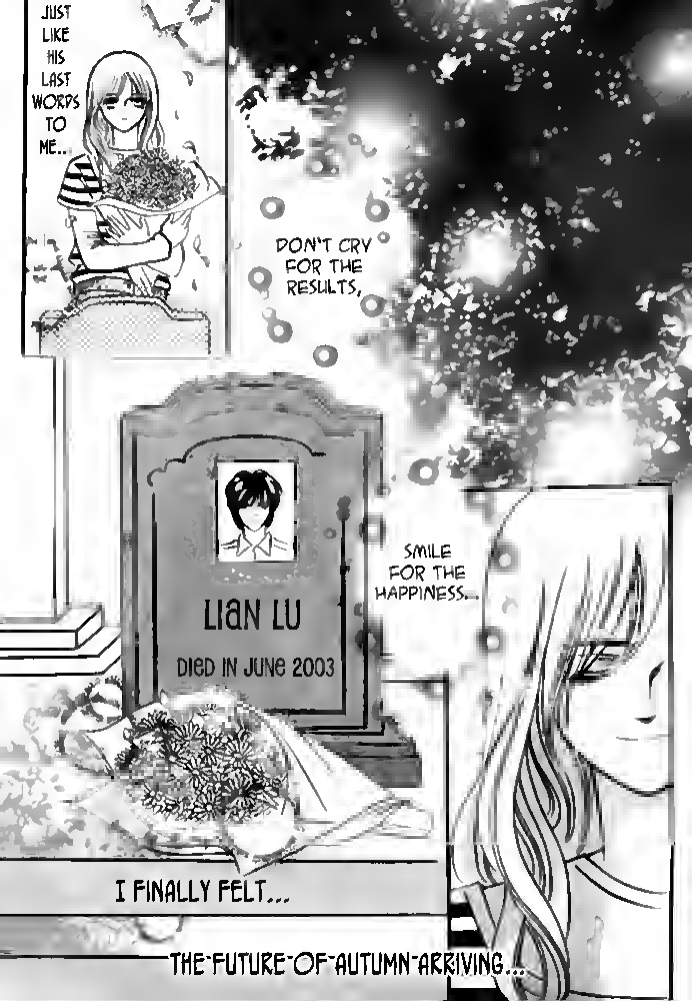
LIAN!
POOF
POOF

LIAN APPEARED IN FRONT OF ME...

APPEARING ALL OF A SUDDEN AND LEAVING ME ALL OF A SUDDEN...

AND LEFT NO TRACE OF HIMSELF IN MY LIFE AGAIN...


BUT ...
THAT HE IS WATCHING ME EVERY DAY,
I FEEL THAT HE DIDN'T DISAPPEAR, THAT HE'S STILL WITH ME.
WATCHING ME GO TO A COLLEGE,
WATCHING ME AS I ACHIEVE HIS DREAM.
MAYBE ONE DAY, I'LL FORGET HOW HARD I WORKED, BUT I WON'T FORGET WHAT LIAN HAD GIVEN ME, COURAGE...
IT WAS PAINFUL TO SAY GOODBYE TO HIM.
EVERY TIME I THINK BACK, I FEEL HAPPY. THAT FEELING WILL BE CHERISHED IN MY HEART FOREVER.


JUST LIKE HIS LAST WORDS TO ME...
DON'T CRY FOR THE RESULTS,
LIAN LU
DIED IN JUNE 2003
SMILE FOR THE HAPPINESS...
I FINALLY FELT...
THE FUTURE OF AUTUMN ARRIVING...